

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Joern Ostermann

Serial No.: 10/003.093

Filed: November 2, 2001

FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
SENDING MULTI-MEDIA MESSAGES
USING CUSTOMIZABLE BACKGROUND
IMAGES

: Attorney Ref.: 2000-0600c
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: Art Unit: **2655**
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: Examiner: Minerva Rivero
:
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**MAIL STOP: Amendment
The Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference that is not a US Patent reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b).

1. This information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d); within three months of the date of the entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114. No certification or fee is required. (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)). If a first office action was mailed before the filing of this IDS, please debit deposit account 502960 the necessary fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to proceed to consider the cited references.

2. This information disclosure statement is being filed more than three months after the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d); more than three months after the date of the entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; after the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or after the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of any of a Final action under §1.113, a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. (37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)).

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement. (37 C.F.R. §1.97 (e)(1)).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement. (37 C.F.R. §1.97 (e)(2)).

c. Attached is a credit card payment form and Fee Transmittal for payment of \$180 to cover the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) and to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. If necessary, please debit Deposit Account No. 502960 any additional amount in order to ensure consideration of this IDS.

3. This information disclosure statement is being filed after the mailing date of any of a Final action under §1.113, a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action which otherwise closes prosecution, whichever occurs first, but on or before payment of the Issue Fee. (37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)).

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement. (37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1)).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement. (37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2)).

c. Please debit Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) and ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Dec. 28, 2004

By: Richard C. Irving

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<p style="text-align: center;">Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(use as many sheets as necessary)</p>				Complete if Known			
				Application Number		10/003,093	
				Filing Date		November 2, 2001	
				First Named Inventor		Joern Ostermann	
				Group Art Unit		2655	
				Examiner Name		Minerva Rivero	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		2000-0600C	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US 5,880,731		LILES et al.	03-1999	
		US 5,647,834		RON, SAMUEL	07-1997	
		US 6,545,682		VENTRELLA et al.	04-2003	
		US 6,692,359		WILLIAMS et al.	02-2004	
		US 5,860,064		HENTON, CAROLINE G.	01-1999	
		US 6,405,225		APFEL et al.	06-2002	
		US 5,555,426		JOHNSON et al.	09-1996	
		US 6,232,966		KURLANDER, DAVID J.	05-2001	
		US 5,732,232		BRUSH et al.	03-1998	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
1		MING OUHYOUNG, I-CHEN LIN, DAVID S.D. LEE. "Web-Enabled Speech Driven Facial Animation". Proc. of ICAT'99 (International Conference on Artificial Reality and Tele-existence), pp. 23-28, Conference held on Dec. 16-18 1999, Tokyo, Japan.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.
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